



Recession and Young People's Health and Wellbeing June 2009

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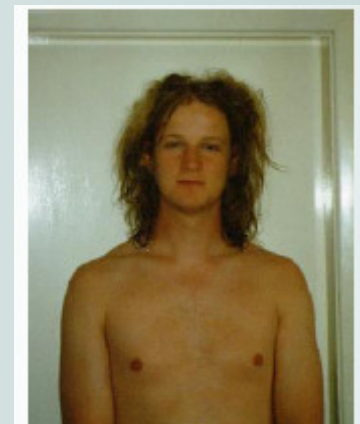
Me

- Council worker not a proper health promoter
- Me and the Ottawa Charter

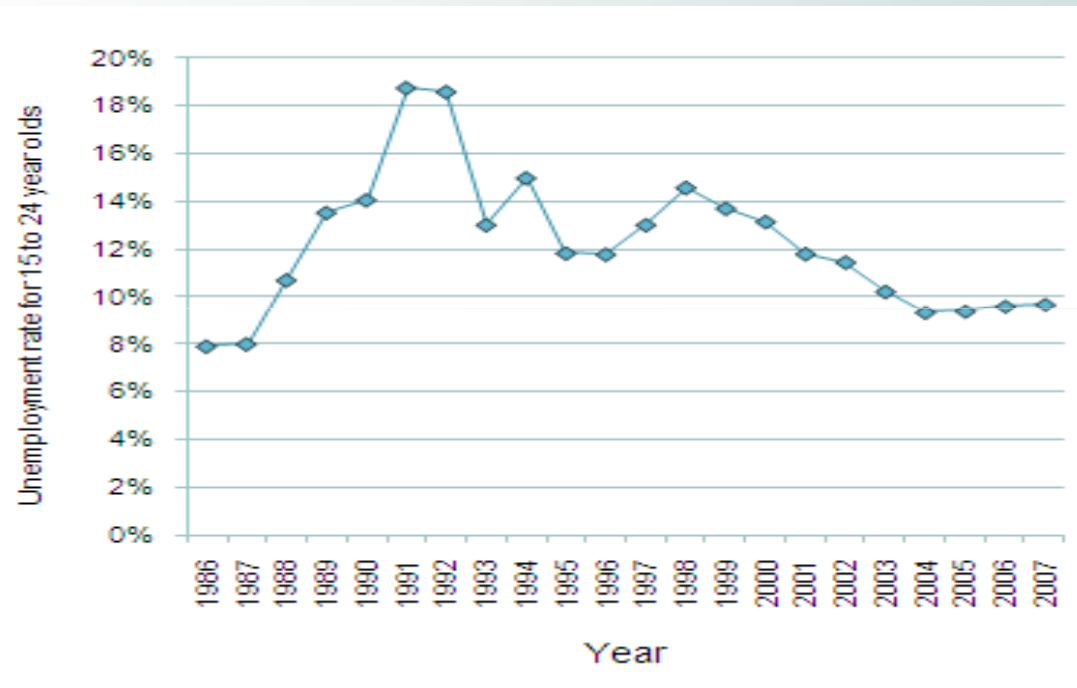
The recent economic downturn is likely to have a more profound impact on youth than any other age group.” (DOL, June 2009)

- I remember...

The Last Recession - 1991

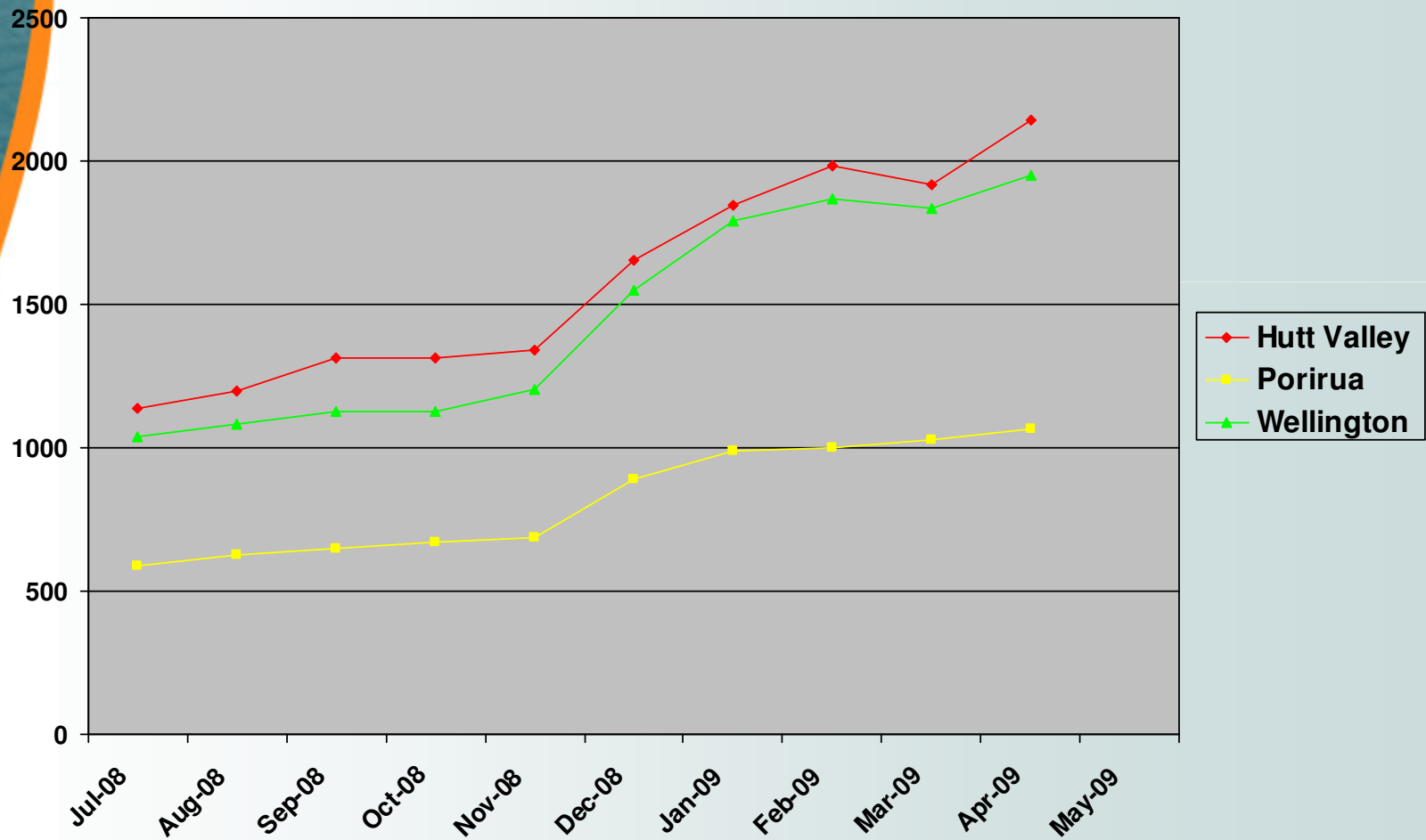



History of Youth Unemployment



While the current youth unemployment rate is lower than it was in 1990, similar growth in unemployment is possible. (Youth Labour Market Trends DOL 2009)

Now: Unemployment Benefits (All Ages)





Now: increases in youth unemployment

- 7.3% rise in unemployment for those in the 20-24 age group.
- 19.6% National unemployment rate amongst under 19's

(Household Labour Force Survey March 09)

What happens to young people in a recession?

- Drug Use Increases*
- Suicide increases^
- And increases in poverty means... increases in violence, mental illness, accidental injury, and respiratory illness increase, primary care use drops

*Arkes J. Does the economy affect teenage substance use? *Health Economics* 2007;16:19-36 (2007)

^MOH 2003 (Impact of Recession...Finland NZ)




How does a recession impact?

- **Social isolation**
Social connections lost – relocation, jobs, recreational less, shame
- **Reduced income per household**
less hours or unemployment
Impacts food, heating, transport, education – and social/health costs
- **Uneven impact on communities**
Children and young people
Maori and Pacific people
Low income groups



What Hutt City Council Did

- In February - Regional Public Health and Hutt City Council staff got together
- We presented together to Mayors Chair of DHB, Regional MSD Bosses, Business people – our goal was to “agitate”.



We found out what was happening

- Realised that accurate data is key – set about cross agency one pager – building consents to AE admissions.
- Work more closely with your buddies (100 interviews with NGOs – real information from schools, youth services – joint funding proposals etc.



Interlude - Things Councils do

- Fund – street safety services, NGO's eg COSS, community grants, training
- Provide – Community halls, community centres, youth centres, youth workers, liquor licensing etc, libraries, pools.



Things we are doing

- Discovered our services, systems are already in place – just need to step up:
- Prioritised funding, time and effort (tough)
- Worked together better (Vibe, Welltrust, Activity Center)
- We realised individuals, colleagues, their families may be impacted
- We realised business partners may also be affected – flexibility in arrangements – pay quickly.



Finally...

- Regional Public Health tricked us into thinking like health promoters
- Get good data
- prioritise
- Work closer with your buddies